

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 have been examined. Claims 12-13 are added by this Amendment. Claim 1 is cancelled by this Amendment. The Examiner has indicated that claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Thus, claims 2-13 are all the claims pending in the application.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 has been cancelled. Claims 2 and 4 have been amended to be rewritten in independent form. Claims 12-13 correspond to original claims 3 and 7, respectively.

OBJECTIONS TO THE SPECIFICATION

The Examiner has objected to the specification for failing to provide a proper antecedent basis for the claim term “shielding member.” Applicant submits, however, that as required by MPEP 608.01(o), “[t]he meaning of every term used in any of the claims [is] apparent from the descriptive portion of the specification...” *See, e.g.*, page 3, line 16.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 2-3, 6-7 and 10-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0089757A1 (“Ishihara ‘757”), claims 4 and 8-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishihara ‘757 in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0041053 (“Iino”), claims 1-4 and 7-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over Iino, and claims 6 and 10-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iino in view of Ishihara ‘757. However, Applicant submits that these rejections must be withdrawn as both Ishihara ‘757 and Iino fail to qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

The U.S. filing date of both the Ishihara and Iino references is August 29, 2003. As Applicant can claim priority to JP 2002-285972 having a filing date of September 30, 2002, Applicant submits that neither Ishihara nor Iino qualify as prior art. To perfect the claim to priority, Applicant submits with this Amendment a verified translation of JP 2002-285972. Accordingly, Applicant requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claims 2-4 and 6-11 based on Ishihara '757 and/or Iino.

Claims 3 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0061016A1 ("Morita") and under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,435,439 to Ishihara *et al.* ("Ishihara '439"). However, in view of the above described amendments to the claims, Applicant submits that these rejections are moot.

CONCLUSION

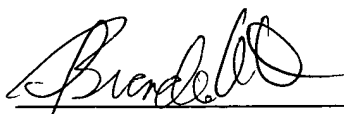
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Patent Appl'n No. 10/667,365

Atty Docket No. Q77099

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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